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ROUND 2 BOB JANE STADIUM
SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
SYDNEY UNITED

SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 1996



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Paul Trimboli

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Nicholas Tzafiris
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HERE COME THE LAKERS

After an unsatisfying season where South Melbourne failed to make the finals, the newly tagged Lakers are set to make amends in this season's Ericsson Cup.

The adoption of a new logo, new playing and coaching staff and a brash new home and away strip gives the South boys a new look.

New coach, Angie Postecoglou, and his boys are most excited about their first home game of the season.

Postecoglou, his assistant Carl Halford, and team manager, Steve Blair are former club greats and no one wants to see South Melbourne succeed more than they do. Postecoglou and Blair are the only South Melbourne players to have played more than 300 games for this club at national level.

Today they showcase their new signings. Warren Spink has tormented South defenders in the past so the Lakers will be relieved he's on their side this season. Spink joins South Melbourne from Gippsland, as does star recruit, David Clarkson. Jason Polak rejoins South Melbourne after a season with Brisbane and seasoned full back, Fausto De Amicis comes to Bob Jane Stadium from the Knights.

In addition Postecoglou has signed three of the most promising Victorian Premier League young players in winger

Alex Efsthathiou, defender Robert Liparoti and utility Steve Iosifidis.

Add these seven signings to the squad that South Melbourne has retained and it's easy to work out why South Melbourne must be a title threat.

The exceptional Paul Trimboli, Vaughan Coveny, Mike Peterson and Alex Kuzmanovic are there to provide the experience while Steve Panopoulos, Con Blatsis, Daniel Allsopp and co will provide the youthful exuberance required to challenge for honours.

The base is there for South Melbourne to retain its status as a league front runner. Team that with the best supporters in the land and you have a club ready for success.



WE ARE THE LAKERS

MICHAEL PETKOVIC: Few goalkeepers have commanded the respect Petkovic has within only one season of senior football. His agility and ball handling skills are exceptional.

CON ANTHOPOULOS: Former Young Socceroo who is a versatile defender often linking with the attack.

NICK ORLIC: Highly rated former Parramatta Eagles and UTS Olympic stopper. Likely to be given the job on many potent opposition forwards.

ALEX KUZMANOVIC: Import who joined South from Melbourne Zebras. An accomplished defender who plays best as sweeper.

ROBERT LIPAROTI: Ex Bulleen Lion defender. Still young but very strong and has caught the eye of astute soccer judges.

JEAN PAUL KNEZEVIC: An interesting signing last season from Canada. Knezevic was effective for the Lakers in defence.

CON BLATSIS: One of four Lakers in current Young Socceroos squad. A big defender. Blatsis joined South from the AIS.

TANSELL BASER: One of the club's promising youngsters who was highly rated by previous coach, Frank Arok.

SASA NIKOLIC: Talented prospect who has impressed in his showings for South.

JASON POLAK: Experienced midfielder who comes back to South Melbourne after spending last year with Brisbane.

STEVE PANOPOULOS: One of the club's best finds in recent years. Panopoulos' fighting qualities are of the highest order.

STEVE IOSIFIDIS: A versatile utility signed from Heidelberg. His coach, Dusan Brnovic, said he would play for Australia.



South Flyer Vaughan Coveny

MIKE PETERSEN: Longtime South Melbourne great whose cleverness in the midfield will carve up many chances for South's forwards.

BILL DAMIANOS: In the current Young Socceroo squad. Was blooded by Frank Arok and is a future midfield topline.

DAVID CLARKSON: Injuries set him back in 1995/96 but having overcome them he is ready to show his best. Has played at Heidelberg and Sunshine with distinction.

ALEX EFSTATHIOU: Port Melbourne Sharks' 1996 Best and Fairest who has rapidly risen to A League level. A fleet footed winger.

VAUGHAN COVENY: Speed merchant Kiwi import who came to Bob Jane Stadium after stints with Melbourne Knights and Wollongong Wolves.

PAUL TRIMBOLI: Club captain. One of the Ericsson Cup's best players, if not the best. Has rare skill and poise.

WARREN SPINK: Experienced marksman who despite having extensive A League experience, is yet to turn 30. Will be among plenty of goals.

MICHAEL CURCIJA: A promising signing from Heidelberg. Curcija is a potent attacker who will improve with experience.

DANIEL ALLSOPP: Strong attacker who joined South despite the interest of other clubs. Scored a screamer against West Adelaide last season.

FAUSTO DE AMICIS: Late season from rivals, Melbourne Knights. Very swift left back who is expected to shine for South.

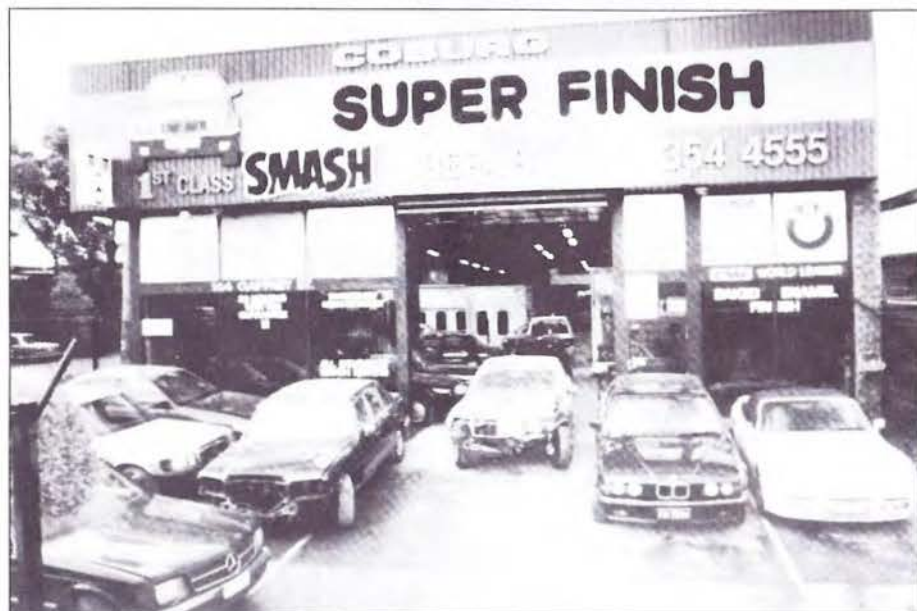


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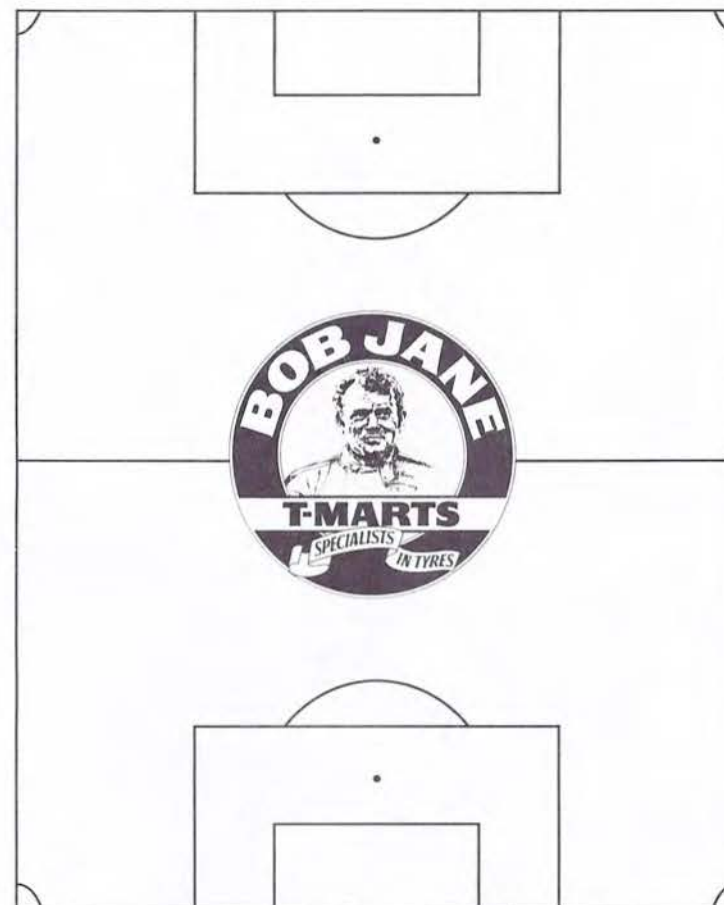


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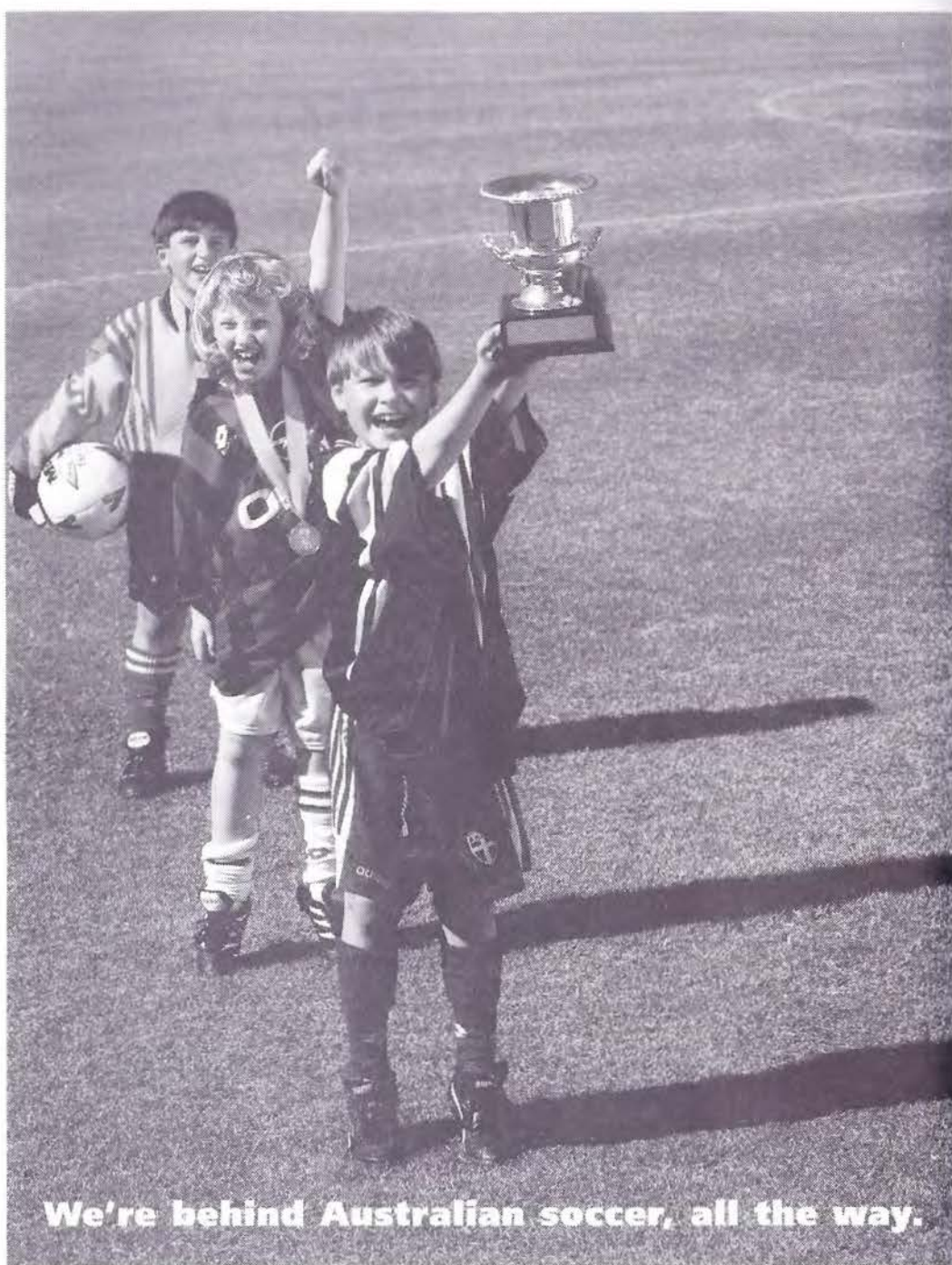
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ERICSSON CUP RESULTS

ROUND ONE RESULTS

At Breakers Stadium

Newcastle Breakers 6 (Bennett 4, Sprod, Thomas) West Adelaide 1 (Perin)

At Bruce Stadium

Canberra Cosmos 2 (Kelly, Perinovic) Marconi Fairfield 3 (Zoric, Foster, Babic)

At Falcons Park

Gippsland Falcons 0 South Melbourne 0

At Victoria Park

Collingwood Warriors 3 (Boutsianis, Taliadoros 2) Melbourne Knights 0

At Perth Oval

Perth Glory 1 (McKenzie) UTS Olympic 4 (Trajanovski 2, Tome 2)

At Sydney United Sports Centre

Sydney United 3 (Zdrilic, Babic, Milicic) Wollongong City 3 (Horsley 2, Joseski)

At Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide City 0 Brisbane Strikers 0

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Newcastle Breakers	1	1	0	0	6	1	3
UTS Olympic	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Collingwood Warriors	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Marconi Fairfield	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Wollongong City	1	0	1	1	0	3	1
Sydney United	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
South Melbourne	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gippsland Falcons	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brisbane Strikers	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Adelaide City	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Canberra Cosmos	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Perth Glory	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Melbourne Knights	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
West Adelaide	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

TOTAL GOALS SCORED: 26

AVERAGE GOALS PER GAME: 3.71

NEXT WEEK - ROUND THREE

Saturday October 26

Brisbane Strikers v Wollongong City	Suncorp Stadium	7.00pm
Canberra Cosmos v West Adelaide	Bruce Stadium	7.30pm
Gippsland Falcons v Marconi Fairfield	Falcons Park	7.30pm
Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory	Breakers Stadium	7.30pm

Sunday October 27

Adelaide City v South Melbourne	Hindmarsh Stadium	7.30pm
Collingwood Warriors v UTS Olympic	Victoria Park	4.30pm
Sydney United v Melbourne Knights	Sydney United Sports Centre	6.30pm

TOP GOALSCORERS

4 JASON BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
2 KIMON TALIADOROS (Collingwood), NORMAN TOME (UTS Olympic),
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic), MATT HORSLEY (Wollongong)

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STATISTICS

HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS

One On One

Sydney United

Won 11 Scored 28

South Melbourne

Won 7 Scored 26

Drawn 3

At South Melbourne

Sydney United

Won 5 Scored 14

South Melbourne

Won 4 Scored 10

Drawn 2

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

COACH: Angie Postecoglou

NICKNAME: Lakers

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2

LEAGUE CUPS: 2

	Goals	
1 Michael Petkovic	_____	13 David Clarkson
2 Con Anthopoulos	_____	14 Mike Petersen
3 Nick Orlic	_____	15 Tansell Baser
4 Alex Kuzmanovic	_____	16 John Paul Knezevic
5 Con Blatsis	_____	17 Daniel Allsop
6 Jason Polak	_____	18 Michael Curcija
7 Steve Panopoulos	_____	19 Robert Laparotti
8 Vaughan Coveny	_____	21 Sasa Nikolic
9 Paul Trimboli	_____	22 Alex Efstathiou
10 Warren Spink	_____	23 Ivan Kelic
11 Steve Iosifidis	_____	24 George Goutzioulis
12 Bill Damianos	_____	25 Fausto De Amicis



SYDNEY UNITED

COACH: Branko Culina

NICKNAME: Pumas

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 0

LEAGUE CUPS: 1

	Goals	
1 Zeljko Kalac	_____	17 Paul Bilokapic
2 Robert Trajkovski	_____	18 Richard Plesa
3 Velimir Kupresak	_____	19 Joe Vrkic
4 Tony Popovic	_____	20 Peter Blazincic
5 Mark Babic	_____	21 Mark Rudan
6 Robert Enes	_____	22 Jacob Burns
7 Kresimir Marusic	_____	23 Chad Gibson
8 Ante Moric	_____	24 Dean Culina
9 Robert Markovac	_____	25 Tom Maric
10 Ante Milicic	_____	26 Ante Seric
11 Damir Cvetko	_____	27 John Didiluca
12 Aytec Genc	_____	28 Ante Deur
14 David Zdrilic	_____	30 John Perosh
15 Jason Culina	_____	31 Andrew Crews

STATISTICS

Record Scores

South Melbourne 4

Sydney United 0 at

Middle Park, 1989-90

Sydney United 4

South Melbourne 1 at

Sydney United Sports Centre,

1995-96

Last Time They Met

Round 28, Bob Jane Stadium

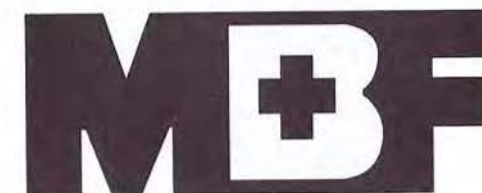
1995-96

South Melbourne 1

(Damianos 61')

Sydney United 2

(Lamond 4', S. Babic 85')



FOCUS ON THE OPPONENTS

Sydney United are South Melbourne's bogey side. The boys from Edensor Park enjoy a better record over South Melbourne in all their A League encounters. Not many other Ericsson Cup sides can boast that.

Last season, United beat South Melbourne in all their three encounters, scoring a total of eight goals at the expense of just two.

Today they'll be keen to extend this stroke of good fortune.

United coach Branko Culina moves into his third season with United and their faithful are hopeful that this is the season they realise their massive potential. The Sydneysiders have some of the brightest talent in the Ericsson Cup but have been unsuccessful in their last two finals campaigns, last season bowing out to Adelaide City while the season before, having their finals run ended by a rampaging South Melbourne.

Beanstalk goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac, returns to United after a stint in England with Leicester City. To cover Kalac, United signed West Adelaide keeper, Peter Blazincic. With Kalac's return the Pumas now have an embarrassment of riches in the goalkeeping ranks.

They also have John Perosh who kept goal for the majority of last season and did an admirable job.

In defence, United have the exceptional Tony Popovic who captains the side, veteran Velimir Kupresak and the young but established Mark Babic and Robert Trajkovski. South's forwards will work extremely hard for any rewards they receive today.

Kresimir Marusic, a championship winner at the Melbourne Knights, has returned to Australia from Croatia and has linked up with Sydney. Marusic is an intelligent ball player who is able to complement fellow midfielders Paul Bilokapic, Ante Moric and Aytec Gene.

The major headaches for Brank Culina are in attack. Culina's chief striker Ante Milicic has the burden of scoring the majority of United's goals. Their scoring problem was highlighted last season where they managed only 47 goals in the 33 matches. Only the bottom three sides managed less goals.

There is no room for complacency however for the Lakers as United scored eight goals in the three games against South Melbourne last season, including an Ante Milicic hat-trick in their Round 17 encounter in Sydney.



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Signature

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TWENTY QUESTIONS WITH VAUGHAN COVENY

- 1 **WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT PLAYING WITH SOUTH MELBOURNE?**
It's one of the biggest clubs in the country and the support is great.
- 2 **IF YOU COULD SIGN ANY PLAYER IN THE A LEAGUE WHO WOULD IT BE?**
Damian Mori.
- 3 **WHICH OPPOSING FANS GIVE SOUTH MELBOURNE THE HARDEST TIME?**
Melbourne Knights.
- 4 **IF YOU WERE CHAIRMAN OF SOC AUS, WHAT CHANGE WOULD YOU MAKE TO AUSTRALIAN SOCCER?**
To make it professional.
- 5 **WHICH AFL TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT?**
Sydney because they are the old South Melbourne.
- 6 **IF YOU COULD HAVE BOX SEATS AT ANY EVENT IN THE WORLD WHAT WOULD IT BE?**
World Cup Final.
- 7 **WHO IS THE LAZIEST TRAINER AT SOUTH MELBOURNE?**
Honestly, no one.
- 8 **WHICH ENGLISH CLUB DO YOU SUPPORT?**
Liverpool. I've always supported them since a youngster.
- 9 **WHICH AWAY TRIP IS THE MOST ENJOYABLE?**
They're all enjoyable when you win but probably the best is Adelaide.
- 10 **WHO IS THE NICEST SOUTH MELBOURNE FAN YOU HAVE MET?**
Nick and his family who I met on family fun day.



- 11 **WHO IS THE WORST DRESSED LAKER?**
Steve Panopoulos because he doesn't wear labels.
- 12 **WHICH SOUTH MELBOURNE PLAYER HAS THE WORST NICKNAME?**
Mickey "Crabber" Petersen
- 13 **HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR GIRLFRIEND?**
Through playing soccer in Melbourne.
- 14 **WHO IS THE A LEAGUE'S BEST REFEREE?**
Gerry Connolly
- 15 **WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?**
Assistant auctioneer for a big plant, general and cars company.
- 16 **WHICH OPPONENTS DO YOU ENJOY BEATING THE MOST?**
Melbourne Knights.
- 17 **WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT?**
The Racquet Club on a Friday night.
- 18 **WHICH MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER DO YOU ALWAYS READ?**
World Soccer
- 19 **WHAT IS YOUR NON-SOCCER SPORTING FANTASY?**
Winning a Grand Slam in tennis.
- 20 **WHAT IS YOUR DREAM OCCUPATION?**
To own my own business, maybe in sports management.

FUN STUFF ANSWERS (from page 25)

MATCH ME

Popovic/Sydney : De Amicis/Lakers : Cranney/Strikers
Zane/Breakers : Petkovic/Zebars : Boutsianis/Warriors
Aloisi/Sharks

WHO AM I? Warren Spink

UNSCRAMBLER

Liparotti, Vlahos, Perin, Milicic, Reda



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Have a nice flight



Information and reservations

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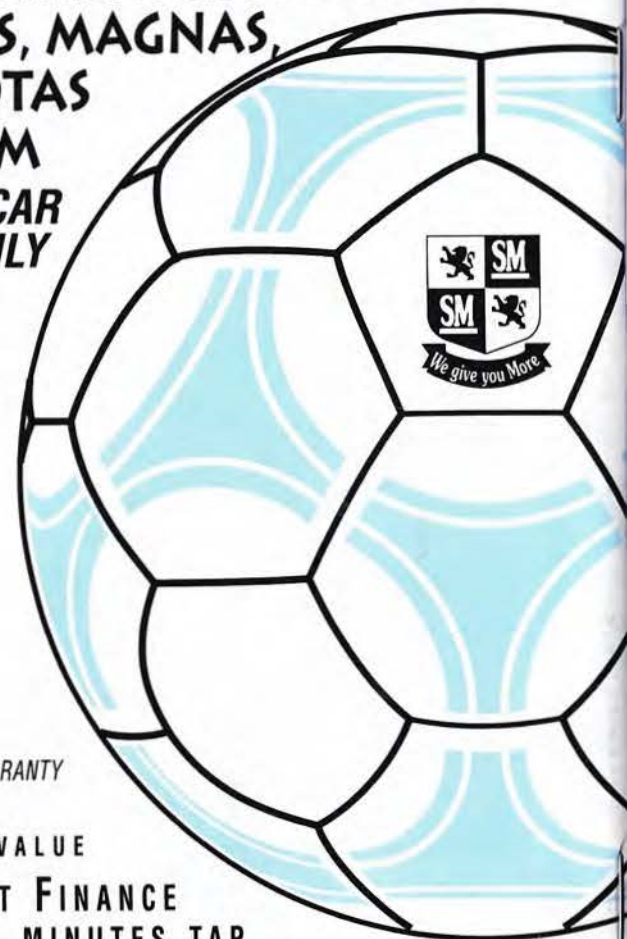
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